

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT RECORD KOBUK-SEWARD PENINSULA RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PLAN

Meeting Location: Buckland, Alaska

Meeting Date: April 1, 2004

Purpose: Identify public issues and concerns with BLM-managed lands in the Planning Area.

Number of public in attendance: 6

BLM personnel in attendance: Jeanie Cole, Shelly Jacobson, Dave Parker, and Randy Meyers.

Meeting format: Through a PowerPoint presentation, attendees were introduced to what an RMP does and why BLM is doing a new one. They were also given examples of decisions that might come out of an RMP. They had the opportunity to review maps of land status, State-identified RS2477 routes, reindeer grazing allotments, anadromous streams, Seward 1008 PLO locations (mineral entry), guide use areas, and game management units in the Planning Area. Participants were asked to express their concerns and issues with BLM-managed public lands. These are documented below. An Interested Party letter explaining the types of decisions made in the RMP and giving an overview of the initial planning steps was distributed. In addition, a small-scale map of the planning area and copy of the PowerPoint presentation were available for attendees to take. A scoping comment sheet that can either be filled out at the meeting or returned to BLM at a later date was also made available to attendees.

Issues/Questions/Concerns:

1. Last year (2003) the fly-in hunters affected the fall hunting. They diverted the caribou upriver where it is shallow and not boat-accessible. There were many hunters going through the airport. Planes were flying in and out at all hours of the day.
2. The sport hunting season is early in the year when it is still warm. People are concerned about spoilage of meat that occurs when people hunt too early in the season.
3. The Buckland River is the primary source of drinking water for Buckland. People are concerned about past mining activity on Quartz Creek (tributary of the Buckland R.) affecting water quality. The water was black.
4. BLM needs to protect lichen all around Buckland for caribou.
5. It is difficult to keep reindeer from mixing with caribou.

6. House logs have been gathered upriver on the Buckland and S. Fork of the Buckland.
7. In May when the ice goes out, they get smelts in the Buckland River.
8. They have noticed that fish in the Buckland River are bigger and fatter than those in the Kobuk River.
9. Would not want the Buckland River designated as wild and scenic.
10. BLM should protect Elephant Point (keep it available for use) for beluga hunting.
11. Do not like the idea of raising buffalo in the area.
12. BLM should not sell land.
13. The river is shallower than it used to be. It is filling in with gravel.
14. Traditional Village site is 40-50 miles upriver. It is a special historic site and should be protected (might be on Native land).
15. BLM should explore the possibility of authorizing subsistence use cabins.
16. Grass baskets are made locally. Grass is gathered from Elephant Point (beach rye grass?) and the edge of the river.
17. Trash in the Selawik Hills needs clean up. There are hundreds of feet of wire and barrels.
18. There may be coal resources upriver or on the uplands. The Elders speak of high mineral potential around Buckland.
19. Locals use mostly boats in the summer and snowmachines in the winter to get around. There is some local summer use of ATVs close to the village.